

**REMARKS**

The title of the invention has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 5, to recite that the polymer constituting the fluororesin is a chlorotrifluoroethylene copolymer comprising chlorotrifluoroethylene and at least one of ethylene and a fluorine-containing monomer. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the recitation of claim 5 as incorporated into claim 1 has been clarified consistent with the Examiner's understanding as set forth in paragraph 7 of the Office Action.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/01987702 to Fukushi et al. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Fukushi et al.

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

The laminate of amended claim 1 includes a layer (A) comprising a fluororesin, the polymer constituting the fluororesin is a chlorotrifluoroethylene copolymer comprising chlorotrifluoroethylene and at least one of ethylene and a fluorine-containing monomer. Consequently, the laminate of claim 1 exhibits excellent liquid chemical impermeability (page 8, lines 30-31 of the specification) without impairing bonding strength (page 39, lines 8-11 of the specification). In this regard, Examples 6 and 7 show the unexpected effect of increased bonding strength after fuel storage in addition to decreased fuel permeation rate (Table 3 at page 38 of the specification). The tube of Example 6 was prepared from Fluororesin F-G having the

composition TFE/CTFE/PPVE as shown in Table 2 at page 33 of the specification, whereas the tube of Example 7 was made from Fluororesin F-H (also TFE/CTFE/PPVE).

In contrast, Fukushi et al. discloses an article comprising a second layer consisting of a partially-fluorinated polymer (see claim 1 of Fukushi et al.). Fukushi et al. does not disclose use of chlorotrifluoroethylene copolymer for improving liquid chemical impermeability and bonding strength. Moreover, Fukushi et al. discloses that the hydrogen of the methylene unit of the partially-fluorinated polymer of VDF becomes more acidic and is susceptible to base attack so as to undergo dehydrofluorination. Further, the newly formed carbon-carbon double bonds enable bonding to organic and inorganic substrates as having nucleophilic functionalities. See paragraph [0030] of Fukushi et al. Namely, the partially fluorinated polymer of the article of Fukushi et al. requires VDF.

Thus, Fukushi et al. does not teach or suggest use of a chlorotrifluoroethylene copolymer for improving bonding strength and reducing fuel permeation rate.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims define novel subject matter and are patentable over Fukushi et al.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-8 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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